



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 29, 2019

Alexander Ward  
MuckRock News  
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E-mail: [73021-02558519@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:73021-02558519@requests.muckrock.com)

Case Control Number: F-2019-07280  
Subject of Request: Hadnan Ashrawi

Dear Mr. Ward:

I refer to your May 16, 2019 request under the Freedom of Information Act for records pertaining to Hadnan Ashrawi's visa record.

Visa records are confidential under 8 USC 1202(f) and, accordingly, are generally exempt from disclosure. We interpret the law to permit us to disclose certain visa-related information, such as a visa application or immigration petition, to the subject of a record who provided the record to the Department. Because your FOIA request does not include authorization from the subject of the record, we cannot disclose any visa records or any information concerning the possible existence or absence of any records.

All visa records, including whether any visa records exist relative to a particular individual, are exempt from disclosure under exemption (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act and the visa record confidentiality provisions of section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Additionally, personal privacy interests are protected by exemption (b)(6) of the Freedom of Information Act, and disclosing the existence or absence of such records with respect to an individual would reveal information in which there is a significant privacy interest and no public interest in disclosure. Accordingly, we are unable to provide any information in response to your request.

You may submit a new request with authorization from the applicant and/or the petitioner if applicable. Please be sure to include pertinent information such as all names that may have been used and birth dates. You may refer to this web page for further information about Certificates of Identity and Authorizations to Release information: <https://foia.state.gov/Request/Visa.aspx#Step-2>. Please note: we do not accept Form DS 5505 Authorization for Release of Information Under the Privacy Act. The State Department Certificates of Identity and Third Party Authorization form is the DS-4240 which can be found at [https://foia.state.gov/\\_docs/DS-4240.pdf](https://foia.state.gov/_docs/DS-4240.pdf). We also do not accept Department of Justice or Department of Homeland Security forms.

You may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request via email at [Foiastatus@state.gov](mailto:Foiastatus@state.gov) or telephone at (202) 261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case control number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

If you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your FOIA request, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Appeals Review Panel, Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS), U.S. Department of State, State Annex 2 (SA-2), 515 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20522-8100, or faxed to (202) 261-8571. Appeals must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this initial agency decision letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; facsimile: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,



Laura Stein  
Deputy Director  
Office of Domestic Operations  
Directorate for Visa Services

LS: ma